GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3354
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
COAL BED METHANE
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a target for doubling the production of natural gas by 2010;

(b) if so, the details of initiatives taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has also emphasized for increasing the Coal Bed Methane production in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OE PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) As per projection made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Private Companies/ioint Venture Companies (JVs), Natural Gas production is likely to increase from 31.742 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) in 2006-07 to 55.03 BCM in 2010-11 and is expected to increase to 63.23 BCM in 2011-12.

(b) Following initiatives are being taken to accelerate gas production :

(i) Accelerating the pace of exploration for oil and gas in the country by offering large acreages under successive rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(ii) Increasing production through accelerated development of new discoveries.

(iii) Increasing recovery factor from the existing fields.

(iv) Supplementing the availability of natural gas by exploring and developing alternative resources such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM).

(v) Venturing in exploration of gas hydrate resources for future options for availability of alternative hydrocarbon resources.

(c)&(d):- Based on the initiatives taken by the Government, so far, the Government has awarded 26 CBM blocks in different coal fields of the country. Efforts are on to carve out some more blocks for offer under future rounds of bidding.

The exploration activities have established encouraging CBM resources. There have been significant finds in eastern and central part of India. Development plan has already been approved by the Government for one such block in West Bengal, where commercial CBM production for the first time in the country has already initiated @ 23000 Cubic metre per day.